

**MINUTES
of the
FIRST MEETING
of the
COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**June 7, 2012
Santa Fe, NM**

The first meeting of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was called to order by Senator Peter Wirth, co-chair, on June 7, 2012 at 10:17 a.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Sen. Peter Wirth, Co-Chair
Sen. Rod Adair
Rep. Gail Chasey
Rep. Zachary J. Cook
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia
Rep. Nate Gentry
Sen. Clinton D. Harden, Jr.
Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Rep. Antonio "Moe" Maestas

Absent

Rep. Al Park, Co-Chair
Rep. Joseph Cervantes
Rep. David L. Doyle
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm
Sen. John C. Ryan
Rep. Mimi Stewart

Advisory Members

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Thomas A. Anderson
Sen. Lisa K. Curtis
Rep. Brian F. Egolf, Jr.
Sen. Carroll H. Leavell
Rep. W. Ken Martinez
Sen. Cisco McSorley
Rep. Bill B. O'Neill
Sen. Sander Rue
Rep. Sheryl Williams Stapleton
Rep. Richard D. Vigil

Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
Rep. Dennis J. Kintigh
Sen. William H. Payne
Sen. John Pinto
Sen. Michael S. Sanchez
Sen. David Ulibarri

Staff

Maha Khoury, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Douglas Carver, Staff Attorney, LCS
Leslie Porter, Research Assistant, LCS
Cassandra Jones, Research Assistant, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file.

Thursday, June 7

Call to Order

Senator Wirth welcomed committee members and guests.

Update from the Corrections Department

Gregg Marcantel, secretary of corrections, provided background on the current status of the Corrections Department, including steps that are currently in progress and those that have been completed recently. He introduced Deputy Secretary of Operations Joe W. Booker and Deputy Secretary of Administration Aurora B. Sanchez.

Regarding the progress made within the department, Secretary Marcantel informed the committee that the department has undertaken organizational restructuring and changes in task alignment in order to be more efficient. Critical positions within the department, including some division director positions, have been filled. The department has revised its mission and vision statements and has begun to develop strategic objectives.

Secretary Marcantel discussed the need for the department to increase the amount of self-auditing that takes place. Currently, the department is assessed by the American Correctional Association every three years. The department hopes to implement a more vigorous tool for auditing itself at least once each year and is considering adopting a color-based auditing program that has been implemented in Arizona.

The Corrections Department has updated its code of ethics and has instituted audit programs that identify inconsistencies in standards statewide. The secretary expressed the need for the department to adopt a new business model. Research in this area is being undertaken by the department in partnership with the University of New Mexico Anderson School of Business. The secretary also expressed concern about the number of people serving in-house parole in New Mexico and the associated costs.

The Corrections Department has awarded a health care contract with a term beginning June 1, 2012 and ending May 21, 2016 to Corizon. The contract will cost the department \$37.5 million per year, excluding pharmaceuticals; encompasses all medical services, dental services, psychiatric services and mental health services; and has a pharmaceutical component.

Members of the committee requested some additional information from Secretary Marcantel, including information regarding the department's budget. In response to questions from the committee, the secretary stated the department's willingness to collaborate with the Vera Institute on studying the use of administrative segregation or solitary confinement at the Corrections Department and promised to keep the committee informed on the status of that study. The secretary also elaborated on specific facility conditions, capital requests and sex offender programs and parole in response to questions.

Development of Work Plan and Meeting Schedule for the 2012 Interim

Committee members discussed issues and possible topics for the committee and voiced their concerns and preferences on topics to be addressed during the interim. Committee members

also discussed a possible joint meeting with the Water and Natural Resources Committee on water adjudication and other overlapping water issues.

Public Comment

Senator Wirth invited members of the audience to comment and to suggest other topics for consideration.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the first meeting of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee for the 2012 interim adjourned at 12:40 p.m.